

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): A self-locking end cap for closing an open end of a fiber tube, the self-locking end cap comprising a bottom wall, an integral tubular side wall extending upwardly from the bottom wall to a top edge, and a plurality of barbs projecting radially away from the tubular side wall, wherein the top edge and the plurality of barbs are arranged to frictionally engage an inner surface of the fiber tube when the self-locking end cap is pressed into the open end of the fiber tube.

Claim 2 (original): The self-locking end cap according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of barbs project radially away from the tubular side wall at points that are equidistant from each other.

Claim 3 (original): The self-locking end cap according to claim 1 wherein the top edge is serrated.

Claim 4 (original): The self-locking end cap according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of barbs are arranged to project radially away from the tubular side wall in two or more rings that are generally parallel to each other and the top edge.

Claim 5 (original): The self-locking end cap according to claim 4 wherein the barbs in a first ring are offset from the barbs in a second ring.

Claim 6 (original): The self-locking end cap according to claim 1 wherein the self-locking end cap is formed of cold rolled drawn steel.

Claim 7 (original): The self-locking end cap according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the tubular side wall proximate the top edge is fluted.

Claims 8-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A container formed ~~according to the method of~~ ~~claim 8 by a method comprising:~~

providing a fiber tube having fiber wall and a first open end;

providing a first end cap having a bottom wall and an integral tubular side wall

extending

upwardly from the bottom wall to a top edge;

pressing the first end cap into the first open end of the fiber tube, bottom wall

first, to close the first open end; and

forming at least one barb in the tubular side wall of the first end cap after the first
end cap has been pressed into the first open end, the barb projecting

radially from the tubular side wall and engaging an inner surface of the fiber wall.

Claim 16 (original): A container comprising:

a fiber tube; and

an end cap disposed in an end of the fiber tube, the end cap having a bottom wall, an integral tubular side wall extending upwardly from the bottom wall to a top edge, and a plurality of barbs projecting radially from the tubular side wall and engaging an inner surface of the fiber tube.

Claim 17 (original): The container according to claim 16 wherein the end cap is a self locking end cap and the plurality of barbs were formed in the tubular side wall of the end cap before the end cap is disposed in the end of the fiber tube.

Claim 18 (original): The container according to claim 16 wherein at least a portion of the plurality of barbs were formed in the tubular side wall of the end cap after the end cap was disposed in the end of the fiber tube.

Claim 19 (original): The container according to claim 18 wherein each of the plurality of barbs extend to a point that pierces the inner surface of the fiber tube but does not extend completely through a fiber wall of the fiber tube.